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# THE BAPTIST Record

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By Mark Kelly  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

COTONOU, Benin (BP) — Muslims who accept Jesus as Savior often face intense pressure from the Muslim community. Families disown them. Friends shun them. Employers fire them. Militants often abuse them. Traditional Christian churches are slow to accept them.

Too often they abandon their commitment to Christ and return to the mosque.

Generations of missionaries have struggled with the challenge. How can you help the new believer survive the pressure long enough to train him in the Christian life? How can he keep his ties to the Muslim community intact so he can share his new faith with friends and family?

Alejandro and Bertha Ortiz believe they have a solution.

The Mexican couple are Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Benin, a small West African country next to Nigeria on the Gulf of Guinea.

The handful of Muslims they led to Christ in Cotonou, the capital city, represents a major breakthrough into that country's small Muslim community.

The mosque they started for these Muslim believers might answer the questions with

which others have struggled for years.

When several Muslims accepted Christ — some through the Ortizes' ministry in Cotonou's civil prison — the

"If Muslims can face Mecca and pray five times a day, why can't these new Christians pray five times a day, but facing Jerusalem and remembering Jesus Christ?" she asked herself.

kneaded and bowed low to the ground. In a sing-song chant, they prayed passages from the Psalms in Arabic. Alejandro closed with a prayer in the name of Isa, the Arabic name for Jesus.

The worshipers were visibly moved by the experience.

"Islam is more a way of life than a religion," said one of the new Christians. "Our traditions are like a snail shell. If you find a snail outside its shell, it's dead. This is a way to change people without changing the tradition."

The Ortizes hope this mosque will buy time for their new believers to grow as Christians without losing relationships in the Muslim community.

They also pray members will be able to bring friends and families to the mosque, where they can hear the gospel in a familiar, nonthreatening setting.

In the weeks after their first meeting, God appeared to be answering those prayers.

The new believers remained enthusiastic about their faith, sharing it with other Muslims. One more person has accepted Christ.

"God is moving in a powerful way in Benin," Alejandro said. "Doors are open and people are responsive. We believe we must take advantage of those opportunities now, because we don't know how long they will be here."



NEW SONG — Cupping their hands in traditional Muslim style and chanting the Psalms in Arabic, two new Christians from Muslim backgrounds worship during the first service of a new congregation in Cotonou, Benin (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

couple began to pray about how to help them develop their faith and reach their friends and families with the gospel.

The Ortizes understood why new Christians from Muslim backgrounds felt out of place in the Western-style churches. They knew the close-knit Muslim community would quickly disown anyone who identified with Christian churches.

"I was looking out the window one day and saw the roof of a mosque, and the Lord just spoke to me," said Bertha.

The couple talked to several of the new Christians and together they fleshed out the idea of a mosque where they could worship God, but in the familiar patterns of Muslim worship.

Their first worship service was held in early February on the second floor of a nondescript concrete building.

Seven men, a woman, and a child left their shoes at the door and sat on reed mats in the center of the room. One stood to read from the French-language Bible, then the whole group

## WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

WMU leader visits Miss.

Roundball outreach gains

SBC meeting previewed

Letters to the Editor

## Hunger Fund rise feeds N. Koreans

Starving North Koreans are receiving millions of meals because Mississippians and Southern Baptists in other states gave generously to the denomination's World Hunger Fund in 1996 — reversing several years of declining giving.

North Korea teeters on the brink of famine after two years of massive crop failures. Eye witnesses say as many as 20 million people are going to bed hungry every night. Government rations in some areas have shrunk to 3.5 ounces a day. Children have begun to die of malnutrition.

Three large overseas freight containers with 1.86 million total meals were shipped in April. About \$1.2 million of Southern Baptist hunger funds have been released to help relieve the food crisis that erupted after August 1995 floods destroyed much of that year's rice harvest.

Mississippi Baptists alone have shipped almost 52 tons of food to Korea since October 1996 — enough to feed almost 1,400 families of four for a month. However, the obvious need for more food grows increasingly urgent with each passing day.

## Looking back

10 years ago

A nine-member study committee, which includes First Church, Yazoo City pastor James Yates, recommends that the SBC "continue to relate to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA)," in response to a motion made at the 1986 SBC annual meeting to withdraw support from BJCPA.

20 years ago

"This Is Our Day" is the theme of the first State Acteens Conference at First Church, Gulfport. In attendance were 775 Acteens and their leaders from all over Mississippi. Beverly Sutton, National Acteens consultant for Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, is a special guest.

30 years ago

A pre-convention meeting of 1,000 Southern Baptist pastors at Second Church, St. Louis, is thrown into an uproar when J. Frank Norris attempts to gain the floor to continue his attacks on Georgia Louie Newton, Southern Baptist Convention president.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# Their lips move, but what are they saying?

When it comes to our career politicians, the old adage, "Watch what they do, not what they say," is good advice. However, all of us should pay close attention to what politicians do and say as the second effort to ban partial-birth abortions gets underway in the U.S. Senate.

Partial-birth abortion, you will recall, is the horrifying technique of manually wrenching a full-term infant from her mother's womb and destroying her by suctioning out her brain, just inches from successful live delivery.

You will further recall that both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate voted last year to ban this procedure, only to have the measure vetoed by President Clinton. The House quickly voted to override the veto, but the Senate failed to follow suit and this infanticide was allowed to continue across the nation.

Pro-abortion politicians and other defenders, disturbed that outlawing even this most outrageous technique might one day lead to successful bans on other methods of abortion, pulled out all the stops to justify the President's veto and the Senate's failed override.

Partial-birth abortion was magically transformed into "dilation and extraction," as if antiseptically altering terminology could change the true nature of what actually occurs. Abortion apologists argued on national television that "D & X" is a rarely-used procedure that must be kept legal for women who have no other medical options.

Then the mantle of "choice" and "reproductive rights" was raised. Phrases such as "right to choose" and "return to back alley butchers" flowed smoothly from the mouths of the pro-abortion politicians.

What a difference a year makes. A leading pro-abortion lobbyist recently confessed, "I lied through my teeth" on national television the first time around about the number of partial-birth abortions performed annually. The procedure is actually used thousands of times each year, not the hundreds as pro-abortionists alleged.

The American Academy of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has gone on record as concluding there are "no circumstances" under which partial-birth abortion is "the only option." As a matter of fact, leading obstetricians have testified before Congress that the violent, tearing nature of the procedure is itself a threat to the mother's health.

Even the American Medical Association's prestigious legislative council voted unanimously to endorse a nationwide ban on partial-birth abortions.

The weight of truth, however, has never mattered much to pro-abortionists and their sycophantic political friends. They still seek to control the debate by controlling the language.

Paul Greenberg, Pulitzer Prize-winning Arkansas columnist, terms it "vericide" — the killing of certain words and facts that are found to be uncomfortable or disagreeable with one's opinion.



"Soon the facts behind the words go, too," he warns.

Think about that as the politicians begin posturing for the President's promised veto of the second ban on partial-birth abortions, despite the superiority of the facts that cry out for prohibition of this injustice. Educate yourself. Listen closely; ponder their words as they defend their death votes. Make up your own mind about what they are saying.

Then go to polls and exercise your true "right to choose."

nominated from and by each association.

The rest of the membership is nominated by the Committee on Nominations.

Thus the association can serve as a liaison and trust builder.

The association is the only unit of Baptist life in which a church is examined as to doctrine and practices before admission to the body.

The association is the organizational unit closest to the local church and should be a focal point of fellowship between sister churches.

It is often called on to arbitrate disputes and to give advice to churches in their problems.

It is a planner and facilitator of mission planning and mission activity action.

It calls attention to local mission and ministry need while providing outlets for missions at home and in other field of opportunity.

The association is to help provide training opportunities for the local churches in witnessing, in program education, and in stewardship.

The association, the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention all stand ready — not as competitors but as coworkers — to help the churches of Mississippi make a difference for Christ and bring Mississippi to Christ.

Yes! The association is alive and well and is very much needed in our day.

## GUEST OPINION:

### *Are associations really necessary?*

By George D. Berger,  
Director of Missions  
Lebanon Association — Hattiesburg

endorsed by several associations who sent representatives.

Early Baptist polity depended on the associations. The term "delegate" was with us well into this century.

Churches elected delegates to the association. The association elected delegates to both the Mississippi Baptist Convention and to the Southern Baptist Convention.

This shows that associations had their beginnings in the needs of local churches and not from any hierarchy.

In our day some state conventions have brought associations under their control with

the directors of missions paid directly by the state convention and the representatives to the state convention board selected by the state without associational input.

In most of those states there is a strong feeling on the part of churches toward the state convention, and confrontation has become the norm at their meetings.

In Mississippi, the association is an independent cooperative body working with the churches, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Our state Convention Board is made up of one member



**Associational Missions Week**  
May 19-25, 1997

# Health fairs model Christ in Miss. Delta

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

A church van full of nurses pulls up in front of a small, two story frame structure that shows the wear and tear of



MEDICAL MINISTRY — Wanda Lee (left) of Columbus, Ga., president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and a registered nurse, draws blood from a visitor to the May 6 health fair conducted at Friars Point in Coahoma County. North Delta Association in Clarksdale coordinated the five health fairs during the week of May 5-9. (Photo by Carl M. White)

many years on its face. The health fair has arrived in Friars Point, a sleepy Mississippi Delta river town in the northwest corner of the state.

Fifteen student nurses plus supervisors from Baptist-affiliated William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg are joined by Wanda Lee of Columbus, Ga., president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), to take blood samples and conduct health screenings as a ministry to area residents.

Registered nurse Jimmy Payne of Hattiesburg, on-site manager for the health fair, gives instructions as supplies are unloaded and tables are cleaned and made ready for the boxes of medical supplies, educational materials, toothbrushes, coloring kits for children, and sundry other materials needed for this type of ministry.

Johnson, director of missions for North Delta Association, coordinated the event.

## Promise Keepers to begin '97 tour

LOS ANGELES (ABP and staff reports) — The Christian men's movement Promise Keepers has begun its stadium-filling 1997 tour with plans for a climactic, multiethnic, nondenominational gathering of men Oct. 4 in Washington, D.C.

Some Baptists say Promise Keepers could become a possible unifying point for Southern Baptists torn asunder by more than a decade of denominational division. Others are skeptical of the movement's roots, leadership, and motives.

"God's the only one who's gonna bring Baptists or any other denomination together," said Tony Forehand, assistant pastor from Desert Hills Church in Las Vegas. Some 24 men paid \$130 each for the church's hotel-and-bus package to L.A. Promise Keepers — which with the two-day ticket at \$60 total was \$5 less than last year.

Jim Rice, associate pastor of South Shores Church in Orange County, Calif., said the Promise Keepers' emphasis on men supporting

their local church pushes men to create, "a personal relationship with Christ, that's what the Baptists preach."

Promise Keepers organizers say anecdotal reports have Washington-bound flights and trains from Dallas and the East Coast getting sold out for October's "Stand in the Gap: A Sacred Assembly of Men." Officials say some men are forgoing the regional stadium conferences to save money and time off for the Washington event.

The Promise Keepers 1997 conference schedule includes: Houston and Tampa, May 16-17; Chicago and Seattle, May 23-24; Birmingham, Ala., and Kansas City, Mo., May 30-31; Knoxville, Tenn., June 6-7; Buffalo, N.Y., and Washington, D.C., June 13-14; Miami, Fla., and Fresno, Calif., June 27-28; Saint Louis, July 18-19; Pittsburgh, Pa., July 25-26; Minneapolis, Aug. 15-16; "Stand in the Gap: A Sacred Assembly of Men," Washington, Oct. 4; Dallas, Oct. 24-25.

## State CP ahead of budget

With one-third of 1997 past, Mississippi Baptists have given nearly \$1,000,000 more than the state's Cooperative Program (CP) budget calls for, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds.

Total giving for January through April was \$8,982,014. The 1997 Mississippi CP budget is \$24,145,086. One-third of that amount, which represents one-third of 1997 that has passed, is \$8,048,362. Gifts from churches are \$933,652, or 11.6% more than the budget calls for.

Giving for April was \$2,372,634 — slightly more than the \$2,233,610 given in April 1996, but the 1997 total for the year is \$503,035, or 5.93%, more than that given in the same period the year before.

CP in Mississippi helps fund such projects as the special ministry retreat at Camp Garaywa, May 16-17; and associational leader training in six locations around the state on May 19-22.

Lee's participation in the health fair came through Volunteer Connection, a WMU ministry that links volunteers to places of ministry.

WMU is hoping to send a number of volunteers to places like Friars Point as part of the Mississippi River Ministry during 1998.

Lee's visit to Mississippi is also part of her goal during this first year as national WMU president to visit as many states as possible.

While in North Delta Association, she spoke at several area churches and met with WMU members for a question and answer session at a Clarksdale motel.

"I want to learn as much as I can this first year," she said. "I have discovered that we (Southern Baptist women) are so diverse. What works in Illinois won't necessarily wash in Georgia."

Nelwyn Brantley of Picayune, WCC nursing instructor, and Maggie Payne, WCC assistant professor of nursing, make sure each of the students understand their assignments.

Jackie Verell, a volunteer from Tupelo and WMU director for Arbor Grove Church, Houston, sets up a table to conduct exit interviews.

"Task each one, 'Do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and

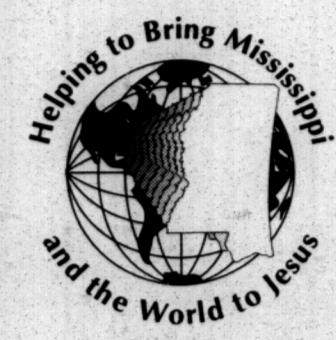
Savior?' If they don't, I ask them if they would like to," she said.

During the week, eight individuals made professions of faith, including a banker during the first health fair at Lambert.

"Many local women couldn't believe the bank man made a profession of faith," Verell said. "We prayed right there with the crowds all around us."

The first client arrives. After taking a medical history, Lee draws blood. Before the week is over 400 people will attend the health fairs.

Sixty nursing students from WCC, plus 12 local nurses from the North West Regional Medical Center in Clarksdale helped.



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# Record

THE BAPTIST

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## SBC CP reflects 9% rise

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for April jumped more than 9% over the previous year's month and nearly \$5 million year-to-date over the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

April CP gifts totaled \$14,299,668 compared to April 1996 of \$13,117,325, a 9.01% increase or \$1,182,342.

At the end of seven months of the SBC 1996-97 fiscal year, total CP receipts were \$90,819,060 compared to the same year-to-date period in 1995-96 of \$86,089,231, an increase of \$4,729,828 or 5.49%. The SBC fiscal year is Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

For the SBC CP Allocation Budget, the April receipts were \$2,211,876 above the required monthly figure of \$12,087,791, or 18.3%. For the year to date, the required budget figure of \$84,614,541 has been surpassed by \$6,204,519 or 7.33%.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships.

# Speakers, Bible Drillers take top honors

By Tim Nicholas  
MBCB Communications Director

Quick — What is Psalm 145:9? A couple of thousand Mississippi Baptist children know it.

Mississippi Bible Drills continue to record large numbers of participants — this year 3,434 in total participation.

This translates to large numbers of Mississippi young people who are hiding God's Word in their hearts.

Each participant (grades 4-6) in the children's drills — 2,158 in 1997 — must memorize 25 Bible verses, learn 10 key passages and the 66 books of the Bible. The verse list rotates in three-year cycles, so participants for three consecutive years learn 75 Bible verses.

Winners of the Junior High Selection Tournament for Mississippi Bible Drills (bottom left photo) were Diana Dunn (left) of First Church, Maben, first place; and Jennifer Karschner of Improve Church, Columbia, second place.

Other finalists include Tiffany Herring of Carterville Church, Petal; Adam Cook of Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg; Kathryn Wallace of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale; Corey Blackwell of Harmony Church, Louisville; Charlie May of Barton Church, Lucedale; Kule Crawford of Fairview Church, Columbus; Cherry Johnson of Parkview Church, Greenville; and Terry Thibideau of Roseland Park Church, McNeill.

Youth participants (grades 7-12) — 1,276 in 1997 — must recognize any phrase from 10 verses and learn doctrinal and Bible answers to a series of questions.

Winners in the Bible Drill Scholarship Tournament (top

left photo) April 26 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, were (from left):

- ◆ Eric Smith of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale.
- ◆ Jason Croom of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale.
- ◆ Christy Jackson of McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl.

This tournament is for students who have participated in Bible Drills for all nine years of their eligibility. More than 80 students were eligible this year.

All three Baptist colleges in the state provide scholarships for the top three winners.

Blue Mountain College provides first place with \$1,000 renewable on an annual basis and the second and third places with \$600 renewable annually.

Mississippi College (MC) provides first place with a four-year room and board scholarship and second and third places with four-year room scholarships.

William Carey College provides first place with a four-year full tuition scholarship, second place with a four-year room and board scholarship, and third place with a four-year room scholarship.

The popularity of Bible Drills must be catching. This year participants came from several other Christian denominations.

"We have all been so impressed with your wonderful children's program, and thank you very much for allowing us to participate," wrote a Presbyterian church leader who sent 12 participants to the children's drills.

The pastor of an evangelical church wrote, "Your openness to our church will not soon be forgotten. I am not only writing as pastor of the church but as a parent who watched his son learn God's Word as he has never learned before."

Wes Pegues (top right photo, left), consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department (DFM) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presents awards to the four winners in the State Youth Speakers Tournament (from second left):



◆ First place: Rebecca Grace of First Church, New Albany.

◆ Second place: Melissa Courtney of First Church, Madison.

◆ Third place: Rebecca Walker of Temple Church, Myrtle;

◆ Fourth place: David Eldridge of First Church, Clinton.

MC provides a four-year room and board scholarship to the first place winner. Second and third place winners receive a four-year room scholarship.

Marcus Peagler (bottom

photo, left), DFM director, presents Tom and Lucille Winstead of Calvary Church, Jackson, with the first "Friends of Bible Drills" award. The Winsteads have been working in Bible Drills for 40 years.

For information on the 1998 Bible Drills, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## LifeAnswers



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

I'm on my third boyfriend since I started my junior year in high school. How can I keep a guy and stop all this hurt from breaking up?

Some of the myths surrounding adolescent love are that it is always wonderful, that you will never be hurt, and that you will always stay with the same guy. However, when you choose to become close and completely open with someone, you risk getting hurt. Christ chose to love us, even though he knew we were going to hurt him. Love and hurt unfortunately go hand-in-hand. What do you seek in a boyfriend? At your age, you are in a dating laboratory where you can try different boyfriend attributes until you come up with the right mix for you. Enjoy dating and don't hastily plunge into a deep relationship. That puts you into a vulnerable position with another person you don't really know all that well. At this point in your life, don't worry so much about "keeping a guy," that you lose your true focus of putting God first and being a Christian example to those who need to see that in you. You were not put in this earth to make someone else happy; you are special to God in and of yourself. Pray about your concerns, enjoy dating, and keep a journal/diary of this time in

your life. Doing these things will help open your eyes when you discover the permanent partner God has already planned for you.

My 16-year-old daughter is a knockout. I was a 16-year-old boy at one time; how can I warn her about what most interests guys at this age?

Talk with her! Don't be timid — you are her best and most trusted source of information. It may be difficult for you and she may not want to listen, but say it anyway. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to take her out on dates yourself. Who better can show her what it means for a man to love her completely and unconditionally? Be honest with her in explaining the male psyche and how it differs from her female way of thinking — there's no way she can automatically know this. Help her to understand the differences between Christian and non-Christian behavior in dating relationships. It is important that you pray for her. God created you male and made you father to a daughter for just such a purpose as this. If you respond now to this crucial responsibility, you will help her to recognize her God-chosen lifetime mate when that time comes.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

# Basketball outreach gaining in popularity

By Charles Willis  
Baptist Sunday School Board

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (BP) — In contrast to the workplaces of other athletic directors, Caz McCaslin's office is not filled with trophies and framed articles about wins and losses but with testimonies about changed lives.

Letters that report success in reaching children and their families for Christ through Upward Basketball validate McCaslin's philosophy that having an intentionally evangelistic sports program can positively affect individuals, communities, and churches.

"All around our country are wonderful church gymnasiums and Christian life centers being used to reach lost people for Christ," he observed. "However, there are many other churches whose members are not sure why people are not being reached through their facility."

While McCaslin, president of Upward Unlimited in Spartanburg, S.C., affirms the "one thousand and one" uses churches find for these facilities, he maintains "a gym was first meant to be used for basketball."

McCaslin began a sports program for more than 200 children from grades one through six while he was minister of recreation at First Church, Spartanburg.

Upward Basketball emerged from that program with the purpose "to help children, their families, and friends to look upward, beyond basketball, to commitment to Christ."

When the number of participants at First Church, Spartanburg, reached 700, a friend suggested he write a book about Upward Basketball to help other churches become involved.

Today, more than 12,000 children nationwide are involved in Upward Basketball, with participation expected to reach 40,000 children next year. Younger children play without keeping score, and for all ages every child plays in every game for equal amounts of time.

Leagues formed within a church have one hour of practice during the week and a game on Saturday. Coaches share a devotional at each practice to build a relationship with the children, and at the last practice, a complete gospel presentation is given.

The program reaches parents and coaches as well. During halftime at every game, church members share their testimonies, and at the end of the season, a Christian athlete is invited to present the plan of salvation to all who have been involved.

Children, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, and coaches are provided an opportunity to make a public profession of faith in Christ.

Among McCaslin's collection of testimonies is a letter from Rob Elliott, minister of recreation at First Church, Gardendale, Ala.

"Lives of coaches, players, and parents are being changed each and every week," Elliott wrote.

"After the first game we had a sixth-grade player make a public profession in church. We had a father who sat in on practice each week who saw his son being taught Christian principles and thought he should and could do that.

"He went to a church that Sunday and

was saved. Our coach went with the family and saw him baptized that night. God is so good," Elliott wrote.

Training for Upward Basketball is open to ministers of recreation, children's pastors, and laypersons, enabling anyone to set up a sports outreach program in their church.

Resources, including player jerseys, awards, coach's shirts, and training videos and manuals, are available from Upward Unlimited at (800) 585-4721, and the cost of training and the program usually is covered by modest participant's fees without affecting the church's budget, McCaslin said.

A pilot program for Upward Baseball is being tested this year. Upward Soccer, volleyball, and other sports will be added as programs can be developed.

Upward Basketball is jointly sponsored by Upward Unlimited and the Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation program.



SPORTS EVANGELISM — Megan Wemple (left) has the ball as teammates Tara Carver (center) and Bethany Arrington follow during a practice basketball game at First Church of Goodlettsville, Tenn. Upward Basketball is a recreation activity that is intentional in presenting the gospel and leads participants to look beyond basketball to God. (BP Photo by Jim Veneman)

## "The Baptist Record" lists deadlines

The deadline for news items in "The Baptist Record" is one calendar week prior to requested publication date. For example, a news item to be published in the issue dated May 22 must be received no later than May 15.

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For more information, contact "The Baptist Record" staff at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Opponents criticize gambling panel's makeup

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Clinton has announced his long-overdue appointments to a national commission designed to study the impact of gambling, but the congressman who led the effort to establish the study said the White House's selections give the gambling industry an advantage on the panel.

Nearly seven months after the deadline for appointments to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, the president announced his selections April 29. They are Bill Bible, chairman of the Nevada Gaming Control Board; Richard Leone, president of the Twentieth Century Fund and former New Jersey treasurer; and Robert Loescher, executive vice president of natural resources management of Sealaska Corp., and a member of the Tlingit Tribe of Alaska.

The other six panelists are:

- ◆ James Dobson, president of the conservative Focus on the Family ministry;
- ◆ Paul Moore of Pascagoula, a radiologist and friend of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi;
- ◆ Kay James, dean of the school of government at Regent University, where

Christian television personality Pat Robertson is chancellor;

◆ Terrence Lanni, CEO and chairman of the board of MGM Grand Inc., a gambling, entertainment, and hotel company based in Las Vegas;

◆ Leo McCarthy, former Calif. lieutenant governor; and

◆ John Wilhelm, secretary-treasurer of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union and chief negotiator for the union's 45,000-member local in Las Vegas.

While Dobson and James oppose gambling and Lanni and Wilhelm are gambling proponents, the others except for Bible have been portrayed as unaligned on the issue.

Added to the selections of Lanni and Wilhelm, Clinton's appointment of Bible completes a trio of "mouthpieces for the big Las Vegas casinos," said Tom Grey of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, according to an Associated Press (AP) report in "The Washington Post."

The president's choices "tilt the balance of the commission in favor of the gambling industry," said U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf of Va.,

chief sponsor of legislation establishing the national gambling panel.

Defenders of the gambling industry appeared satisfied with the panel's makeup.

Frank Fahrenkopf, president of the American Gaming Association, called the panel balanced and said its assignment provides "a remarkable opportunity for us to clear up and get rid of the stereotypes on gambling once and for all," according to the AP report.

Congress formed the panel in order to study the social and economic effects of gambling on government, communities, families, businesses, and individuals.

The commission is to make its report no more than two years after its first meeting. The cost of the commission will be about \$5 million, according to a Congressional Budget Office estimate. A chairman has not been selected.

The last national study of gambling came in 1976, when few states had legalized gambling.

Two decades later, only Utah and Hawaii remain as states that have no form of legal gambling.

# Mississippi musicians on SBC's agenda

The 1997 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Dallas on June 17-19 will inaugurate the new North American Mission Board (NAMB) and other changes mandated under the

denomination's Covenant for a New Century restructuring.

The meeting — 140th session in the 152-year history of the nation's largest evangelical body — will be held at the Dallas Convention Center.

## "To the Cross!" — 1 COR. 1:18

### SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION JUNE 17-19, 1997 — DALLAS, TEXAS

#### TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 17

- 8:00 Music for Inspiration
- 8:30 Call to Order, Congregational Singing, Prayer
- 8:35 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention
- 8:40 Committee on Order of Business (First Report)
- 8:45 Welcome: George W. Bush, Governor of Tex.
- 8:50 Response
- 8:55 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:00 Bible Study, Prayer
- 9:20 Crossover Dallas report
- 9:25 Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
- 9:45 Executive Committee Report (Part 1)
- 10:40 Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group Report
- 10:45 Voices from the Past, Recognition of Former SBC Presidents
- 10:00 Congregational Singing
- 11:00 Special Music
- 11:10 President's Address
- 11:55 Benediction

#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 17

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration
- 1:15 Congregational Singing, Prayer
- 1:20 Memorial Service
- 1:25 Woman's Missionary Union Report
- 1:35 Business—Committee on Order of Business (Second Report), Introduction of Motions; Reporting of Proposed Resolutions
- 1:55 Congregational Singing
- 2:00 Committee on Nominations Report
- 2:10 Messenger Information Survey
- 2:20 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:35 Executive Committee Report (Part 2)
- 3:05 Bold Mission Thrust Report
- 3:15 Congregational Singing
- 3:20 Sunday School Board Report
- 3:30 Sunday School Board Presentation
- 4:00 YouthLink 2000 Report
- 4:10 Congregational Singing: Blake Krumalis, minister of music, Carriage Hills Church, Southaven
- 4:15 Committee on Committees Report
- 4:25 Introduction of Motions; Reporting Proposed Resolutions
- 4:40 Election of Officers (Second)
- 4:55 Benediction

#### TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 17

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration
- 6:15 Congregational Singing, Prayer
- 6:20 Election of Officers (Third)
- 6:30 Committee on Order of Business (Third Report)
- 6:40 Previously Scheduled Business, Introduction of New Motions, Reporting of Proposed Resolutions
- 6:55 Christian Life Commission Report
- 7:05 Council of Seminary Presidents Report
- 7:15 Congregational Singing
- 7:25 Seminary Presentation

#### 8:40 Call to Commitment 8:45 Benediction

#### WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 18

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration
- 8:30 Congregational Singing, Prayer
- 8:35 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
- 8:40 Annuity Board Report
- 8:50 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:00 Business—Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report), Introduction of Motions (Last Time)
- 9:20 Congregational Singing
- 9:25 Previously Scheduled Business
- 9:50 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
- 10:10 Introduction of the North American Mission Board
- 10:40 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 10:50 Congregational Singing
- 10:55 Music
- 11:05 Convention Sermon
- 11:50 Benediction

#### NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 18

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration
- 6:15 Congregational Singing: Chris Alsup, minister of music, First Church, Horn Lake
- 6:25 Prayer
- 6:30 Business—Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report); Election of 1998 Convention Sermon Preacher, Alternate, and Music Director
- 6:40 Home Mission Board Report
- 6:50 Foreign Mission Board Report
- 7:00 Congregational Singing
- 7:05 Missions Emphasis
- 8:35 Call for Commitment
- 8:45 Benediction

#### THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 19

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration
- 8:30 Congregational Singing
- 8:35 Bible Study, Prayer
- 8:55 Previously Scheduled Business
- 9:05 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 9:20 American Bible Society Report
- 9:30 A Celebration: Reflecting on the Past, Rejoicing in the Future
- 9:50 Questions and Answers About Agency Ministries
- 10:10 Congregational Singing
- 10:15 Baptist World Alliance Report
- 10:25 Denominational Calendar Committee Report
- 10:35 Denominational Press Report
- 10:45 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers
- 10:50 Presentation of Newly Elected Officers
- 10:55 Congregational Singing
- 11:00 Music
- 11:00 Speaker (Luis Palau, evangelist, Portland, Ore.)
- 11:45 Prayer/Benediction

#### Dallas Prayer Walk

June 12-13

#### Crossover Dallas

June 14

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A pair of Northwest Association ministers of music are representing the state on this year's SBC program.

Blake Krumalis, minister of music at Carriage Hills Church, Southaven, will lead congregational singing at 4:10 p.m. on June 17.

Chris Alsup, minister of music at First Church, Horn Lake, will lead congregational singing at 6:15 p.m. on June 18.

NAMB's role in advancing the evangelization of North America will be the focus of a 30-minute presentation on the morning of June 18, including NAMB presidential nominee Robert Reccord, current pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va., and other live speakers as well as multimedia segments.

David Raddin, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, will be nominated to serve as NAMB trustee.

He is presently serving as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, one of the three major SBC agencies being merged into NAMB.

One issue of intense interest during this year's meeting will be whether Southern Baptists vote to boycott Walt Disney Company, one year after convention messengers threatened to boycott Disney if the company refuses to change the increasingly "anti-Christian and anti-family trend" in its corporate decisions.

In business sessions, messengers will act on a proposed record SBC budget of \$148 million in Cooperative Program (CP) support for more than 4,200 missionaries working among 336 people groups in 127 countries, and 4,800 home missionaries across the U.S.

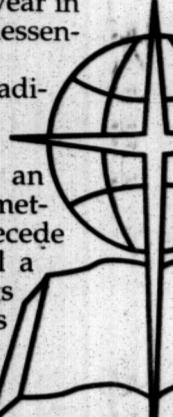
When 14,277 messengers register at the Dallas meeting, it will mean 1,000,000 messengers have attended SBC annual meetings since its beginning in 1845.

According to SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter's projection, this year's meeting should register about 15,000 messengers. Last year in New Orleans, 13,706 messengers were on hand.

As has become the tradition at these large once-a-year meetings, "CrossOver Dallas," an evangelistic blitz of the metropolitan area, will precede the SBC sessions as will a host of other meetings such as the Pastor's Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

Members of cooperating Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi wishing to attend the 1997 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention should contact their pastor or church secretary.

From staff and wire reports.



Southern  
Convent  
1997 Annua  
and  
associated

June 15-1  
Dallas,



The Dallas Convention Center, photograph will be the site of the 1997 Southern Baptist

#### THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH

In leading a church staff retreat for our state a few weeks ago, I shared the 10 Laws for Sunday School Growth. Several of the Pastors thanked me and said how much they made them rethink their church's Sunday School. I would like to share those Laws with you over the next few weeks.

**Law # 1** — New classes grow faster than established classes. Once a class reaches 2 years in existence, it will lose its desire to reach new people, and will focus on fellowship/ministry. The solution, leave them alone and start new classes.

**Law # 2** — The class to enrollment ratio must be kept at 1 to 20 or less. Add up the number of adult and youth classes and children/preschool departments. Divide that number into your total Sunday School enrollment. If the answer is 20 or less, you are in good shape. If it is 21 or higher, you need to create new classes.

**Law # 3** — Bigger is never better! Some teachers will tell you that bigger classes reach people better than classes of 6-8 people. Don't fall for that lie! Those teachers are not thinking about building your church. They are trying to build their own kingdom. History has taught us that large classes do a poorer job of reaching new people, because they become satisfied.



Dr. Jim Butler, Pastor  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Southaven, Mississippi

# WMU program boasts state connections

Mississippian Elizabeth Merritt will join Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president Jerry Rankin and his wife Bobbyle, both Mississippi natives, and Baptist World Alliance (BWA) general secretary Denton Lotz, who is married to a Mississippian, on the platform of the June 15-16 Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) annual meeting in Dallas.

Merritt, former Southern Baptist missionary to Germany, will deliver a report on the WMU Second Century Fund during the June 15 afternoon session. Merritt was raised in the Chicora community in Wayne County.

Merritt and her husband John — also a Mississippian — served for 30 years as Southern Baptist missionaries in various postings around the European continent,

before retiring late last year in Mississippi.

The yearly gathering of WMU members and guests will be held at the Dallas Convention Center Arena on Sunday and Monday, prior to the June 17-19 Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

The Sunday afternoon session will feature the Foreign Mission Board report and recognition of foreign missionaries.

The Rankins will be joined by a host of missionaries in a presentation titled, "Create New Ways to Share God's Love."

Lotz will be the keynote speaker in the Sunday evening session.

A former missionary in eastern and central Europe, Lotz has served in a variety of positions with BWA since 1980.

He was named general secretary in 1990 of the fellowship of 188 Baptist unions and conventions encompassing more than 42 million baptized believers.

He is married to the former Janice Robinson, who was born in Ellisville.

Along with Lotz, the Sunday evening session will include the recognition of home missionaries and the 1997 Acteens Panelists.

A historical reflection on the National Acteens Convention (NAC) also is planned.

Begun in 1970, NAC is a national event held every four to five years for teenage girls who are members of Acteens, the WMU organization for girls in the seventh through 12th grades.

The next NAC is set for July 1-4, 1998, in Louisville, Ky.

The morning and afternoon sessions on Monday will emphasize the work of WMU and ministries in Texas.

The Monday morning session will include addresses by WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien and WMU President Wanda Lee of Columbus, Ga.

Lee was in the Mississippi Delta during the week of May 5-9 to participate in a series of health clinics coordinated by North Delta Association in Clarksdale. (See article on page three of this issue.)

The WMU sessions also will feature a Sunbeam Centennial celebration and reports on Christian Women's Job Corps and other projects sponsored by the WMU Vision Fund and Second Century Fund.

National WMU officers for 1997-98 also will be elected.

The Monday evening session will feature Robert Smith, the Carl E. Bates associate professor of Christian preaching at Southern

Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Each session of the meeting will open with a theme interpretation by MissionsUSA Live, a performing arts group sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Author and speaker Jennifer Dean of Blue Springs, Mo., will close each session with a time of meditation and prayer.

Southern Baptist missionaries to Argentina Bruce and Nancy Muskrat and Laura Shelton will be the guest musicians for the two-day meeting.

The adult choir from Cornerstone Church, Dallas, will perform during the Sunday afternoon session.

From staff and wire reports.



Southern Baptist Convention  
Annual Meeting  
and  
Associated meetings

June 15-19, 1997  
Dallas, Texas



photographed against the downtown Dallas skyline,  
Baptist Convention annual meeting June 17-19.

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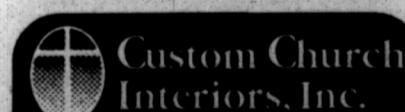
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.*

*Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.*

*Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)*

*Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.*

*Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.*

*No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.*

*When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.*



**Tom Myers of Prentiss** (pictured at right) received a plaque of appreciation for 11 years as a Senior Adult Area 8 Representative from Glenn Shows, family ministry consultant, Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



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### ASSAULT CONTINUES

#### Editor:

The May 1 story concerning sociology professor and "evangelical liberal" Tony Campolo is a frightening example of the insidious doctrinal assault that continues upon Southern Baptists and fundamentalist evangelicals in general.

Much more disturbing than his political rhetoric is his proclamation, "You can't get me doctrinally, I'm in," followed ultimately by a self-condemning call for Southern Baptists and other fundamentalists to embrace Pentecostalism.

Southern Baptists, wake up! This is not "picking on the minor things" or "shifting the subject to a theological fine point."

While there has been a

mild official softening of some mainline Pentecostal doctrine recently, in fact and in practice Pentecostalism is still incompatible with historic, objective, Reformation theology — including Southern Baptists' and contemporary fundamentalism.

It is not just a matter of different spiritual emphases as many Southern Baptists still believe.

It substantively opposes the uniqueness and finality of Scripture and the sufficiency of the atoning and redeeming work of Jesus Christ.

Pentecostalism still generally holds — unscripturally — that God's grace or "mere salvation" is not enough for spiritual victory.

I write this in love and concern — not to be unkind or divisive.

Although not officially

abandoned (yet), our foundational doctrinal heritage as Southern Baptists has steadily been ignored or forgotten.

I prayerfully challenge our denomination to "Test everything. Hold on to the good." (1 Thes. 5:21) and "Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you..." (2 Tim. 1:14 NIV).

Joseph J. Marshall  
Oxford

ciation in our state and our convention board to preserve, protect and promote our Baptist history in Mississippi.

We have two sources to aid with this matter: The Historical Society which will be housed at Oklahoma Baptist University, attention Slayden Yarbrough; and the SBC Library and Archives at the SBC Building, Nashville, Bill Sumners, director.

Let us remember our history for those behind us, else they will not know.

Robert M. Hanvey  
Hazlehurst

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Barton Church GAs

were Irene Martin, music director; and Jimmy Sellers, pastor.

**Senior Adult Celebration**, a two-day conference was held by First Church, Hazlehurst, April 13-14. The worship services were led by guest speaker, Levon Moore. A retired pastor, Moore addressed such topics as service opportunities during retirement, living wills, the abundant life, and crises unique to the senior adult years. Although the emphasis was on seniors, all ages were invited to attend the special services and meals, according to Rick Munn, minister of music/senior adults.

**GAs of Barton Church, Lucedale**, visit nursing homes as a part of their missions outreach. Pictured, Megan Graham, Katie Bexley, Katie Register, and Jordon Tanner visit with Jeanette Tillman, former WMU leader. Sheila Bexley is GA leader. James Sanders is pastor.

**Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra** will be in concert at First Church, Madison, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. Rehearsal will begin at 4 p.m.

**Hillsboro Church, Scott Association**, held dedication services for a new piano on May 4. The Yamaha Clavinova CVP-69 model was purchased at a cost of \$5,350. On program

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**New Zion Church, Crystal Springs**, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on May 24 and May 25. Activities on Saturday will include an Old Fashion Country Fair, 4-6 p.m.; supper at 6 p.m.; and camp meeting (singing) at 7 p.m.

A sesquicentennial service will be held on Sunday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Charles Martin, board member of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, will present a certificate to the church. John McBride, director

of missions for Copiah Association, will bring the morning message.

Dinner on the grounds will be served. The afternoon message will be brought by David Patterson, pastor of Damascus Church, Hazlehurst, and former deacon at New Zion

Church. John Clower and Tammy Lyon Bridges, former members, will also speak. Leroy J. Brewer is pastor of New Zion Church.

Music will be presented by Reggie Bridges, Dena and Monte Chatman, Pat Drew, Jamie Hayes, and Teresa Teasley.

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Betty Owens  
Hamilton

## WELCOMING CADETS

Editor:

The Baptist Student Union at the United States Air Force Academy would like to contact the men and women coming to the Academy June 25 and 26 to begin training as basic cadets.

For those arriving June 25, we will meet them at the airport, provide free lodging, meals, and transportation, and take them to the Academy at

the appointed time. We would also like to meet those coming on June 26 and provide them transportation to the Academy.

This is an opportunity to meet smiling faces and make new Christian friends before beginning basic cadet training. If pastors, parents, relatives, friends, or new cadets will contact us with name, address, and telephone, we will correspond with them to secure flight arrival times and provide further information.

Please contact us at 550 W. Woodmen Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919, (719) 599-9094. Also, for anyone attending West Point, the Naval Academy, or Coast Guard Academy similar ministries are provided. At West Point contact: Bill Blackwell, 29 Sheldon Dr., Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12518, (914) 534-

## HOECOMINGS

**Causeyville, Meridian:** May 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; lunch following 11 a.m. worship service; Phillip Griffin, former pastor, speaker; Paul Barkley, music; Charlie Jones, pastor.

**Oak Forest, Jackson:** May 18; 40th anniversary; services

10:30 a.m. covered dish lunch served at noon; Bob Simmons, guest speaker;

**Arrowood, Meridian:** June 1; Sunday, services, dinner on grounds, and afternoon singing; Robert and Janis Mooney, missionary to Africa, guest speakers; May 31, mission presentation and fish fry at 7 p.m.; Chris Atkinson, pastor.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Reta Smith Bond**, 84, died May 5 in McComb. Services were held at Silver Springs Church, Oskyka, where she was an active member. Survivors include son Donnie Bond, Foreign Mission Board missionary in Vienna, Austria; daughters, Glinda Blades, Oskyka, and Juanita Schilling, McComb; brothers, H. Alton Smith, McComb, L. P. Smith, Cedar

Hill, Texas, and Hugh Smith, Petal; sisters, Jessie Tate and Beth Kirby, both of Monroe, La.

**Chele A. Veach and Vonda G. Reeves-Darby** have recently joined the medical staff at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Veach, specializing in Anesthesiology, is affiliated with Rankin Medical Center. Reeves-Darby, specializing in Gastroenterology, is affiliated with GI Associates of Jackson.

**John W. Driscoll** was ordained to the ministry on April 20 at Crescent City Church, Metairie, La. He graduated from Mississippi College (MC) in 1975. While attending MC, Driscoll was a member of First Church, Jackson.

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Dwain Gregory, Director  
Baptist Student Ministries  
U.S. Air Force Academy  
Colorado Springs, CO

van for the mission work here. I have good news!

We received confirmation today that Campbell's has ordered the van for us. It will arrive here in Oct. or Nov.

We have had 1,617 churches and individuals send us labels.

God has already blessed us with an additional 100,000 labels, so we are now saving for van #2.

This has been an incredible faith experience for me.

Missionaries aren't sent to places that are spiritually strong and it has been a blessing to be reminded daily of Baptist's support and prayers.

Debbie Wohler  
SBC Home Missionary  
P O Box 7452  
Tahoe City, CA 96145

## THANKS FOR NEW VAN

Editor:

For two years I have been writing you to ask your help in letting the churches in your state know about our project. We've been saving Campbell's soup labels to get a new

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Evan Lenow and Jennifer Ellis have recently received scholarships at Mississippi College.

Lenow, son of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Lenow of Memphis, Tenn., is the recipient of the T.M. Hederman, III Scholarship for the Outstanding Freshman Young Man. Ellis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rusty Ellis of Clinton, is the recipient of the Suzanne Nobles Memorial Scholarship as the Outstanding Freshman Young Woman.



Lenow



Ellis

Written correspondence may be sent to Knight at William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.



Frank Baugh (left), Leanne Burris

**Honors Day ceremony** was held recently at William Carey College. Leanne Burris, Diamondhead, and Frank Baugh, Mobile, Ala., received the Jenkins-Chastain Citizenship Awards. This award serves as the highest honor given by the college as it recognizes the man and woman who have made the most significant contribution to student and college life in exemplifying those qualities of citizenship upheld by the college.

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## Staff Changes

**Second Avenue Church, Laurel**, has called **Mark Hanna** as Associate Pastor/ Minister of Children.

Hanna, a native of Laurel, was licensed and ordained to the ministry by Second Avenue Church.



Hanna

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Gaining true confidence

Jeremiah 7:8-15; 9:23-24

By Greg McBride

Because we're covering so much ground in such a short time it is necessary to put this lesson into biblical historical context. Jeremiah was a prophet to Judah as was Isaiah. However, as we studied last week, Isaiah prophesied in the 8th century B.C. in the face of the Assyrian threat to Judah. Jeremiah prophesied in the 7th and 6th centuries B.C. when Babylon was the threat to this southern kingdom.

Both prophets addressed the problem of misplaced trust. Isaiah spoke against Judah's dependence on military alliances with Egypt. Jeremiah warned the people concerning their dependence on the temple and ritual worship. In this

warning, Jeremiah declared that confidence can be found only by those who know God.

**Deceiving Ourselves (7:8-10).** Many things had happened in the years following the fall of the northern kingdom to persuade the people of Judah that God was protecting them. They had survived the Assyrian threat on two occasions: in 722 B.C. when Israel fell and again in 701 B.C. when Assyria's king Sennacharib threatened to destroy the city. The people had begun to view the temple as a magical shield of protection. They reasoned that as long as the temple was in Jerusalem, God would not allow the city to fall.

To further aggravate the sit-



McBride

uation the people believed that they could openly live in rebellion to God's laws and yet be absolved of these sins by participating in the ritual worship of the temple. Jeremiah lists 7 commandments which the people were breaking and then coming to stand in confidence

before God. They had reasoned that their presence in the temple had cleansed them of their sin.

**Forgetting the Judgments of the Past (7:11-12).** God, on the other hand, was not deceived. He called the temple a "robber's den"—a place where robbers huddle for protection from their pursuers. Judah had changed the temple into a place where they could huddle for protection from the consequences of their sin.

God called the people's attention to what he did in the past when his people made this same mistake. At Shiloh, dur-

ing the time of Samuel, God allowed the Philistines to capture the Ark and completely destroy the tabernacle. Judah evidently had forgotten this judgment. As a result, they were facing this judgment again.

**Ignoring God's Message (7:13-15).** This was not Judah's first and only warning from God. The phrase "rising up early and speaking" was a way of saying God had spoken persistently to the people concerning this sin. Yet, the people only ignored the warnings. Thus, God declared a two-fold judgment. First, he would destroy his temple in which the people were trusting for security. Second, he would send the people away in exile (cast out of my presence).

Many times the only way God can get through to us is by removing the very things in which we are placing false confidence. Sometimes these things are very dear to us as was the temple to the people of Judah.

**Being Truly Confident (9:23-24).** After declaring God's judgment on Judah, Jeremiah began a lament over the city. These two verses from that lament help us understand how we can find true confidence. True confidence comes to those who rightly prioritize life's values. The most praiseworthy thing in life is to understand and know the Lord. In Hebrew thought, to "know" was to experience in relationship. Relating to God in loving kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth provides more confidence than all the riches, might, and wisdom which man can amass.

What is it that you are placing your confidence in? Your church attendance? Your goodness? Your charity? If Jeremiah were speaking today, his words to you would be "Trust Jesus, he's the only way to have true confidence."

*McBride is pastor, Kittiwake Church, Pass Christian.*

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### The victorious Christ

Revelation 19-20

By Paul Blanchard

Truth: Jesus will be victorious over all things, and he will condemn those whose names are not in the book of life.

The Apostle John saw a vision of Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who rode forth to wage war and to judge evil. John also saw a vision of Jesus pronouncing condemnation on those whose names were not found in the book of life.

In Revelation 20:11-15, the word of God makes it clear that all who do not know Jesus as Savior and Lord stand under divine judgement. This passage talks about a great white throne. It is a place of judgement.



Blanchard

ment. Not only is it an awesome place, there is an awesome person sitting on the throne.

People attempt to hide from him. The one on the throne is Jesus, the lion of the tribe of Judah. He has finally arrived as judge for all of those who would not receive him as Savior and Lord.

In John 5:22, the Bible says that "the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son." People will run from Jesus. They are afraid to face Jesus. They have not believed on him. They have cursed him and his church. They have ignored him. They have disobeyed him.

They now have nowhere to hide! Every hiding place is gone! It is the sinner and Jesus. Can you imagine standing before the precious Lord Jesus, face to face, as a lost, hell-bound sinner and seeing the nail prints in His hands? Can you imagine seeing his beautiful face and hear him pronounce judgement? What a tragic time!

While this passage is one of the most controversial passages in the Bible, most everyone agrees that lost people will stand before Jesus because of their rejection of him. Some people believe in only one judgement, while others believe in several separate judgements. It is clear, however, that this great white throne judgement is only for those who have rejected Jesus as Savior. They have said "NO" to Jesus, as the Holy Spirit has

drawn them and convicted them of their lost condition.

Satan has persuaded mankind for centuries that there is no final accounting before God. That lie is now fully exposed. In this passage, John sees Jesus at once and knows him as the Lord. The nailprints are in his hands, the scars are upon his back and brow, the spear wound is in his side — the marks of what wicked men did to him. There he is! Men have ignored him, denied him, cursed him, disbelieved in him, and sold him. Now, he is their judge.

One writer states that to look in the face of Jesus is bliss beyond words for the child of God, but for the ungodly, it will be the first agonizing stab of hell. The earth and the heavens have fled already from that face, for heaven and earth have been defiled by sin and need to be made anew. Oh, what a face it is! The ungodly spit in it once

and wrenched the beard from its cheeks, leaving it more marred than any man's. Now they gaze upon it in fear and torment. Jesus is not judge! He is truly King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Revelation 19:7-10 discusses the bride. Some say that the bride is Israel, while others say that she is the church. The Apostle Paul stated that his ministry was to espouse believers to Christ so that, as the church, they might be presented to him as a chaste virgin (2 Corinthians 11:2). All believers from pentecost to the rapture are seen collectively and symbolically as the bride of Christ. The church is the bride. The redeemed of the ages are the wedding guests. All who have their names written in the Book of Life are at this banquet. They are the redeemed. Will you be there?

*Blanchard is Director of Missions, Winston Association.*

## LIFE AND WORK

### Fashioned by the spirit

Galatians 5:16-26

By Becky Bennett

Can you think of at least one person who helped to shape your Christian life? What were the distinctive qualities of character displayed by that person? Are you displaying similar qualities in your life?

**Conflict That Continues (5:16-18).** Freedom demands responsibility. Christians often forget that truth. We should enjoy our freedom, but not at the expense of others, and not at the expense of our own spiritual maturity. Spiritual freedom does not mean Christians can do anything they want to do. Christians, and ultimately



Bennett

churches, can be destroyed by backbiting and devouring each other. Our actions must be motivated by love for one another.

Living in the Spirit is the only way to avoid making the mistake of giving in to the desires of the flesh. Freedom gives choice. Taking responsibility for our actions draws us to the Spirit. Allowing the Spirit to control our thoughts and actions will keep us from practicing sin.

**Sins That Disqualify (5:19-21).** Paul lists many acts that show man's sinful nature. These acts express the hidden desires of the flesh. They are

obvious to all, even unbelievers. Paul says people who participate in these acts will not possess the Kingdom of God.

This does not mean the Christian who makes a mistake loses his salvation. It does mean a person who continues to practice such acts gives no evidence of having received God's gift of salvation. Our actions give testimony about our spiritual condition.

**Qualities That Distinguish (5:22-23).** The Christian is not without sin. However, with constant fighting against our sin nature and yielding to the Spirit Christians can produce qualities that set us apart from the world. We do not produce these qualities by ourselves. We must submit to the Spirit and be controlled by him in order to produce the fruit that

is acceptable to God. The fruit shown by the Spirit-controlled Christian is not just one or two of the qualities listed by Paul. The word "fruit" is singular. All the qualities listed make up one fruit. We must allow the Spirit to develop all nine items in the list in order to produce the fruit of the Spirit. Christians must not be satisfied with or settle for less than all of the qualities in Paul's list.

**Life That Stays in Step (5:24-26).** Because they have put to death their old sinful nature, Christians display the qualities of spiritual fruit. We can't do this alone. Only the Spirit-controlled life puts to death the sinful nature. Keeping in step demands continuous activity. Christians cannot relax, but must continue to grow and improve the fruit we bear. Those around us will see

the "new and improved" fruit when we continue to keep in step with the Spirit. When we get out of step the results show up vividly and immediately. The Spirit leads the way and Christians should keep in step. Therefore, pride, envy, and strife have no place in the life of a maturing Christian.

Bring to mind that person who helped shape your life. How did he or she keep in step with the Spirit? My father is one person who makes a difference in my life. His example of walking in the Spirit assists me in my own spiritual journey. The constancy and persistence visible in his life inspires me to work harder to grow my own spiritual fruit. Even after eighty-nine years he would be the first to say "I must continue to learn, grow, and live in the Spirit."

*Bennett is Dean of Students at Blue Mountain College.*

# THE VILLAGE VIEW

## The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive  
Director  
P.O. Box 27,  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION OF  
SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND  
CHILDREN INC.

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**FEB. 1, 1997**  
**FEB. 28, 1997**

## MEMORIALS

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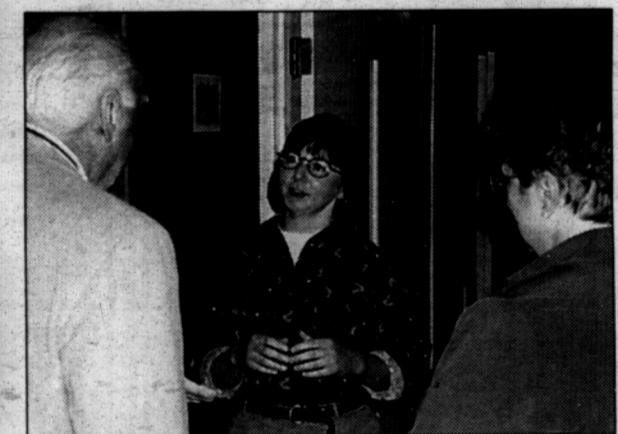
Wendy's and Mississippi College Student Government Association hosted its annual golf tournament at Shady Oaks Country Club. Proceeds from the tournament were awarded to The Baptist Children's Village. Representatives from Wendy's joined Mississippi College students for a beautiful day of golf.



The Baptist Children's Village team enjoyed a winning day on the golf course for the tournament.

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Hope SSC/Centreville BC  
**Mrs. Margaret Germany**  
Mrs. Carolyn M. Moore  
**A. L. Gerrard**  
Mr. John T. Keeton III  
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Judge and Mrs. Joe N. Pigott  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Starrett  
Mrs. Maxene S. Williford



Lisa Davis, Child Care Worker on The India Nunnery Campus, tours Child Care Executives from around the country. The executives met for its annual conference at Harvey Hotel, hosted by The Baptist Children's Village of Mississippi. The theme for the conference was "Good People Make the Difference." The conference included such topics as "How to Find Good People;" led by Jarrett Fishpaw of Profiles International; "How to Keep Good People, panel discussion;" and "How to Empower Good People" led by John Shiflet of John de la Howe School.

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**Fred McGaughy**  
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**Harold McMinn**  
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Mr. & Mrs. Hugh F. Shaw  
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**Mrs. Vera Lillian Price**  
Mr. & Mrs. David P. Lavender  
**Dr. Bob N. Ramsey**



While the executives were in meetings learning how to be better executives, the wives enjoyed a day at Highland Village.

# God opening doors in small Delta town

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

## The Road to Everlasting Life



God intends for all his children live with him forever, but the road to everlasting life is blocked. To find that road you must:

**Admit that you are a sinner.**  
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

**Accept God's love for you.**  
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

**Acknowledge Christ as Lord.**  
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

M.C. Johnson, director of missions for North Delta Association, is excited about the doors God has opened in Friars Point — a small, river port town in northwest Coahoma County.

Mississippi River Ministry funds designated for new mission work were allocated this month to purchase an old county school building in Friars Point for a new church and ministry center.

This represents the culmination of over four years of work, Johnson noted.

"Four years ago we did the first Backyard Bible Club in Friars Point," he said.

The association also held several health fairs with the help of student nurses from Mississippi College and William Carey College, both affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Those ministry experiences resulted in contacts with area residents that grew into an invitation to begin a Bible study last July, Johnson said.

The group started with about six adults and has grown to over 20 people for the Wednesday evening meetings.

"They began praying about a building," Johnson said.

A local planter, John McKee, owned the old school building which years earlier served as his family's farm headquarters.

McKee agreed to sell the 13,000-square-foot building on 9.5 acres for considerably less than the \$108,000 appraised value.

Plans call for a church, a day care ministry, and a senior adult ministry. "It is an ideal situation for these kinds of ministries," Johnson said.

In addition, the 9.5 acres could provide space for sports fields and other community recreation needs.



OPENING DOORS — M.C. Johnson, North Delta Association director of missions, surveys the Friars Point school property recently purchased through Mississippi River Ministry funding. The challenge now is to locate money and materials to renovate the facility for use as a Christian facility by area residents. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Before any ministry can begin, however, work will have to be done on the building.

Johnson estimated the cost at \$5,000 for minimal renovation — money the association does not have.

"I got a call the other day from a man who wanted to donate building supplies," Johnson said.

"He told me to make up a list of what we needed and he would donate the supplies plus send a crew in to do some of the work."

Johnson wants a constituted church going by the fall. Day camps are scheduled in June. Two weeks later, Johnson hopes to begin work on the building.

For more information, contact Johnson at P. O. Box 999, Clarksdale, MS 38614. Telephone: (601) 627-3417.

## Ministers' wives plan Dallas luncheon

The 42nd annual luncheon of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference will be held at noon on June 17 in Ballroom C of the Dallas Convention Center, site of the 1997 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A pair of ministers' wives with Mississippi connections are currently serving as conference officers.

Jo Ann Berger of Hattiesburg is corresponding secretary. She is the wife of George Berger, director of missions for Lebanon Association in Hattiesburg.

Delores Taylor of Gainesville, Ga., is conference president. She is the wife of John Lee Taylor, former pastor of First Church, Grenada, and

recently-retired pastor of First Church, Gainesville, Ga.

Luncheon speakers will be:

— Dixie Lusher, a minister's wife and popular speaker-mentor; and

— Dennis Swanberg, humorist and impressionist known in Southern Baptist circles as the "Minister of Encouragement."

Luncheon tickets ordered by May 21 are \$18 per person. Tickets may be ordered by

sending a check payable to SBC Ministers' Wives Conference, along with a stamped/self-addressed envelope, to conference treasurer Peggy Walker, 409 Tricia Lane, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701.

After May 21, tickets will be \$20 per person and may be purchased from Walker or at a booth near the messenger registration site at the Dallas Convention Center, through the night of June 16.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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TMH XWGM LWGFG  
LWCMAF DGACM LB  
VBEG LB STFF, LWGM  
UBBO RS, TMH UCYL  
RS NBRK WGTHF;  
YBK NBRK KGHGESLCBM  
HKTXGLW MCAW.  
UROG LXGMLN-BMG:  
LXGMLN-GCAWL

Clue: E equals M  
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Two Nine.

## BMC mission group returns to Tex.



A group of 27 students from Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union (BSU) recently returned to Arlington, Texas, on a mission trip. The work was varied and included leading Rainbow Express in three apartment complexes, painting and cleaning two apartments that will be used to lead church services and Bible studies, and sorting donated goods in the warehouse. "God used this group to lead eight children to the Lord," said Tracy Moser, BSU director. Pictured are Kelly Anderson, Aberdeen; Elisha Bacon, Houston; Erin Becker, Tupelo; Melissa Casteel, Booneville; Marcia de Oliveira, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Elizabeth Dunlap, New Albany; Connie Harris, Oxford; Amy Mahoney, Coldwater; John Maxey, Amory; Fletcher Moorman, Grenada; Jack Moser, Blue Mountain; Tracy Moser, Blue Mountain; Amy Parker, Sandersville; Emily Pate, Woodland; Shannon Phillips, Savannah, Tenn.; Kenan and Laura Plunk, Florence, Ala.; Meredith Roten, Ripley; Carrie Sanders, Senatobia; Betty Simmons, Jackson; Christie Smith, Selmer, Tenn.; Jeremy Smith, Southaven; Anna Teel, Red Bank; Joy Tubb, Southaven; Stephanie Vaughn, Ramer, Tenn.; Anthony Williams, Ecru; and Julia Williams, Ecru. (BR special photo)